

Humanity as a rainbow project

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In the “Practical Course for Teachers” GA0294, Rudolf Steiner speaks of four golden rules for the teacher. The second rule is this:

... as teachers we must take an interest in everything in the world and everything that concerns people and mankind ... we must be interested in all worldly and all human matters. To keep ourselves aloof on any occasion from anything of possible interest to man — if we were to do this as teachers, it would be greatly to be deplored. We ought to be able to take an interest in the biggest and smallest matters that concern the individual child. That is the second thing: The teacher must be interested in every aspect of the world's life and human life.

To be a person who is interested in the small and big, means to open your heart for both daily happenings that might slip our attention and the big that might seem too big for our small selves to engage with. And yet in both we are asked to overcome the thresholds we face.

The aggression exerted on George Floyd in the US kindled worldwide long existing embers of ongoing pain and frustration living in the soul memories of many individuals and groups that in one way or another face discrimination and oppression of their human potential.

Parallel to the increasing striving for individualism the growing question of inner, social and cultural diversity throws a spotlight on still existing festering wounds of social and human injustice. At the same time the human core in its essence is being questioned and threatened by the looming perfection of robotics and artificial intelligence that could be programmed to do what is “right”. We can ask ourselves what the added value is of doing the right thing out of ‘free choice’.

To come closer to what the ‘right thing to do’ might be, a 360° view is needed and for this we need the other to help us overcome our short sightedness. In this sense IASWECE is blessed through its international and intercultural collegueship, in which we can help each other to keep expanding our horizons and insights. One of the fruits of this work is a living work document [“The Universal Human Spirit”](#) in which we have tried to describe how we aim to foster inner diversity as a potential in the early years of life so that the children of today can develop into respectful and self-assured adults who contribute to humanity as a rainbow project.

We welcome your suggestions and comments to help us grow!

Clara Aerts worked from for more than 20 years as a Steiner/Waldorf early childhood educator in Flanders/Belgium. Since 2008 she is a member of the coordinating group of IASWECE, doing advocacy work in Brussels, coordinating new projects for Waldorf EC and being internationally active as a lecturer.